

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Kalinowski Honored for Work on Underage Drinking



The Connecticut Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking has honored State Rep. Raymond C. Kalinowski R-100th, Middletown, Middlefield and Durham, as Outstanding Legislator for his work to reduce teen access to alcoholic beverages. The award was presented at the organization's ninth annual conference October 25 in Cromwell.

The group recognized Rep. Kalinowski for introducing legislation to reduce underage drinking and expressed gratitude for his support of the organization and its goal of cutting alcohol abuse among young people.

"Too many times, we hear of tragic results from underage drinking," said Rep. Kalinowski. "I have been working to tighten state law, so that young people under the legal drinking age do not have ready access to alcohol. It is my hope that tougher laws can help prevent young people from damaging or losing their lives in alcohol-related incidents."

Rep. Kalinowski has proposed legislation such as HB 6901, An Act Concerning Underage Drinking, which would increase penalties for adults who permits parties where underage drinking takes place or otherwise makes alcohol available to someone under 21.

According to the coalition on underage drinking:

- Young people say that alcohol is extremely easy to get from friends, parents, other adults and sales outlets, even though it is illegal to sell or provide it to them.
- Youth drink more often, in larger amounts and in more dangerous settings than adults.
- Too many alcohol sales outlets, due to lack of training or motivated by financial profits are selling to underage drinkers, particularly near college campuses.
- The legal drinking age of 21 is not taken seriously, because so many adults minimize the risks of drinking and accept and even condone underage alcohol use. Young people quickly internalize the message that drinking is not harmful.

Rep. Kalinowski serves the 100th Assembly District of Middletown, Middlefield and Durham in the state House of Representatives.